

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022

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Congratulating Michael James Burke on Receiving High School Diploma

WHEREAS, Michael James Burke was a Ken-Ton student in the 1950s and 1960s, attending the former Brighton Elementary, Franklin Middle (then Franklin Junior High School) then Kenmore East High School; and

WHEREAS, as a teenager, Michael never graduated from Kenmore East High School because he followed in his military family's footsteps at 17, by enlisting in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, he served from 1969 to 1973 at the height of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, during his service, Mr. Burke earned the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, sharpshooter-rank marksmanship badges for the M-14 and M-16, and two Overseas Service Bars; and

WHEREAS, veterans, like Mr. Burke, who left high school without graduating due to engagement in active duty of service are eligible to earn New York State high school diplomas under Operation Recognition, a program created by Section 305 of New York's Education Law, recognizing the devotion and sacrifice of all Veterans who departed school early by presenting them with a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burke received his diploma during a private ceremony at the Batavia VA Medical Center, accomplishing a lifelong goal of completing his secondary education; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to individuals such as ***Michael James Burke*** whose dedication to serve the United States and his desire to become a Kenmore East High School graduate is an inspiration fitting to be admired, emulated and honored.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby recognize the latest accomplished of ***Michael James Burke*** and pause in its deliberations to recognize his praiseworthy service for our country and for his commitment and devotion to achieve his lifetime goal of earning his high school diploma.

Hon. Lisa M. Chimera
Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Erie County Legislature